

AUTOMORPHISMS OF SEMIGROUPS OF COMPLEXES OF ABELIAN GROUPS

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Communicated by Alston S. Householder, September 19, 1976

In the study of any algebraic system, one of the first objects investigated is its automorphism group [1]. The automorphisms of groups have been investigated so extensively that we make no attempt at a list of references. In [4], A. R. Richardson studied the automorphisms of groupoids. Semigroups of finite complexes in groups are central to the study of retractable groups [2], and here we announce some properties of the automorphism group of such a semigroup in the case in which the underlying group is abelian. In particular, when the underlying group is cyclic we classify these automorphism groups.

If G is a group, then the collection $F(G)$ of all finite nonempty subsets of G is a semigroup, where $AB = \{ab \mid a \in A \text{ and } b \in B\}$. Each automorphism α of G induces an automorphism α^* of $F(G)$ where $A\alpha^* = \{\alpha a \mid a \in A\}$. An automorphism of $F(G)$ of this type will be called a *standard automorphism* of $F(G)$.

THEOREM 1. *If φ is an automorphism of $F(G)$, then φ is a standard automorphism if and only if φ is inclusion preserving.*

A homomorphism σ of $F(G)$ into G such that $\{g\}\sigma = g$ for every g in G is called a *retraction* of G . A group G is called *retractable* if it admits a retraction. The concept of a retractable group was introduced in [2] where it was shown that the class of retractable groups is a proper subclass of the class of torsion free groups and the class of lattice-ordered groups is a proper subclass of the class of retractable groups. Hence, the class of torsion free abelian groups is a proper subclass of the class of retractable groups. "It seems to be a rather difficult problem to determine all abelian groups with commutative endomorphism ring" [3, p. 205]. If G is a torsion free abelian group then it is easy to show that the automorphism group of $F(G)$ is nonabelian.

THEOREM 2. *If G is an abelian group, σ is a retraction of G , and φ_σ is given by*

$$A\varphi_\sigma = (A\sigma)A(A^{-1}\sigma)$$

for every $A \in F(G)$, then φ_σ is an automorphism of $F(G)$. Moreover,

(i) *if φ_σ is not the identity automorphism, then φ_σ is a nonstandard automorphism of $F(G)$ of infinite order;*

AMS (MOS) subject classifications (1970). Primary 20M15.

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